

enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13536 of April 12, 2010, with respect to Somalia is to continue in effect beyond April 12, 2017.

The United States is strongly committed to Somalia's stabilization, and it is important to maintain sanctions against persons undermining its stability. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to Somalia and to maintain in force the sanctions to respond to this threat.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, April 6, 2017.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.J. RES. 85

Mr. BACON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.J. Res. 85.

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska?

There was no objection.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN HONOR OF JAIDEN BARTEE AND TORI PEREZ

(Mr. GARRETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me today as we remember the lives of Jaiden Bartee and Tori Perez, ages 5 and 6 years old, who, as they stood with their mothers waiting for the schoolbus on the morning of March 30, were struck down and taken from this world far too soon by a passing truck.

Mr. Speaker, Members, there is no Scripture, no words, no thought poignant enough to address the loss of these mothers, of the Buckingham County, Virginia, community, of humanity of these two lives; but in what is the best effort that I can make, I ask that all of my colleagues and these Members of the Virginia delegation who join me to join in a moment of silence to recognize these two young people.

ATROCIOUS CHEMICAL WEAPONS ATTACK

(Mr. PANETTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, in the early morning hours on a day earlier this week, a small town in northwest Syria was atrociously attacked with chemical bombs. As a result, over 75 civilians died and over 20 children gasped for air, writhed in pain, and foamed at the mouth. They suffered dilated pupils, muscle spasms, and involuntary defecation.

Based on the state of this evidence, it appears that it was the Syrian President, Bashar al-Assad, who committed this heinous act against his people once again. The last time Assad com-

mitted such an act, in 2013, he agreed to eliminate his chemical weapons. However, it appears he lied, and he continues his sick aggression against his own people and our humanity.

From the first use of chemical weapons in World War I to the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s and now in Syria, chemical weapons epitomize the absolute horror of modern-day warfare. That is, of course, why they are outlawed and why their use is a war crime. That is also why anybody who uses them must be treated and penalized like a war criminal.

OUR WORK ON HEALTH CARE IS UNDONE

(Mr. MESSER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, Congress is leaving for Easter break with work undone. For 7 years, we have told the American people that we would repeal ObamaCare and replace it with something better, and we have legislation that provides that opportunity. It is not a perfect bill—no bill is. But President Trump has said this is our best and only chance to get this done.

The bill cuts taxes by hundreds of billions of dollars and reduces government by hundreds of billions, too. It keeps preexisting condition prohibitions and lets 26-year-olds stay on their parents' health care. But most importantly, it unshackles American families from government-forced mandates costing them hundreds of thousands of dollars each year. Simply put, it is an enormous improvement over the status quo.

My hope is we will be back next week before Easter. I know many of my colleagues are ready for the holidays, but we need to do what we said we would do: repeal ObamaCare and replace it with something better.

□ 1045

DEMAND FOR AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION OF THE TRUMP- RUSSIA SCANDAL

(Mr. BEYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my constituents' demand for an independent investigation of the Trump-Russia scandal.

Since mid-November, this has been a major issue for the people I represent, who are deeply concerned about protecting democratic elections. Among their concerns are the following:

Changes last July to the Republican Party's platform that are beneficial to Russia, which the Trump campaign spearheaded.

A few days later, Trump's call on Russia to launch a cyber attack against former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Trump's refusal to say anything negative about Vladimir Putin, such as his terrible record on human rights or his crackdown on dissent.

The intelligence community's consensus that Putin directed a campaign of weaponized information against Hillary Clinton.

And the implication of numerous Trump advisers in unseemly relations with Russia, including Michael Flynn, Jeff Sessions, Roger Stone, Paul Manafort, Michael Cohen, and Carter Page.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents have watched as the House Intelligence Committee's investigation lapsed into confusion and obfuscation, obviously at the behest of the White House.

Last month, that committee canceled public hearings which would have included the testimony of former Acting Attorney General Sally Yates.

My constituents have watched President Trump, whose Presidential campaign is under FBI investigation, alternate between protestations that "Trump-Russia is a hoax" and repeated attempts to change the subject.

QUAPAW AREA COUNCIL GOLD LEVEL

(Mr. HILL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Quapaw Area Council, which, for the first time, was recognized by the Boy Scouts of America's Journey to Excellence program as a Gold Level Council, the highest award possible.

The Boy Scouts of America's Journey to Excellence program is designed to encourage excellence and reward success at all levels of scouting, measuring several indicators that include fiscal management, fundraising, youth advancement, youth camping, and membership recruitment.

As a fellow Scout, I am proud of the high standards our Scouts in Arkansas are setting. This achievement is a credit to the dedication of members of the council, countless volunteers, devoted parents, and committed Scouts.

On behalf of all Arkansans, congratulations. We look forward to following your continued success for generations of Scouts to come.

INVESTIGATE RUSSIA'S INVOLVE- MENT IN OUR NATIONAL ELEC- TIONS

(Mr. GARAMENDI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I remember well the investigations that Congress undertook in the Nixon period—the Watergate investigations.

Frankly, I am appalled at the way in which this House is conducting its investigations. It is high time that we have an independent investigation.

The reality has changed since the sixties and seventies. We now have 24-7 cable TV, and everything seems to be momentarily disclosed. We can't continue. We need an independent investigation of this extremely important issue of Russia's involvement in our national elections.

RETURN STABILITY AND PEACE TO SYRIA

(Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my outrage at the chemical attack in Syria on April 4, 2017, that killed upwards of 70 civilians, including children.

I am proud to represent many Syrian Americans in my congressional district in Charleston, West Virginia. They share their concerns with me on a regular basis.

This type of violence is a regular occurrence in Syria. Hospitals, markets, schools, bus stations, warehouses—none of these places are off limits for bombing and destruction by Bashar al-Assad and his allies. The slaughter of innocent life will not end unless the United States of America takes the lead.

Peace in Syria is impossible while Bashar al-Assad remains in control. He has proven this time and again by his reckless and evil use of chemical weapons and other cruel tools of war on his own people. We must establish safe zones for innocent civilians.

I call upon President Trump and other world leaders to do whatever they reasonably can to end these atrocious attacks on the innocent, and return stability and peace to Syria.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION MUST STAND UP FOR SYRIAN CHILDREN NOW

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I could not leave this place, the most powerful lawmaking body in the world, in the season of Easter and Passover and sacrifice without bringing to the attention of my colleagues that children are dying. The children in Syria are suffering from the bombing and the vileness of President Assad and the chemical attack, where children and babies are struggling to breath.

This Congress has to act. We must join those who want an infusion of emergency dollars.

Where is our heart.

And then the famine in Sub-Saharan Africa, where there are more displaced persons than we have seen in history. Sixty thousand have escaped to Kenya, and children and women are dying. In the name of our former colleague, the Honorable Mickey Leland, who died in 1989, taking grain to the famine area in Sub-Saharan Africa, we must act now.

As a founder of the Congressional Children's Caucus myself, I cannot stand here and allow the children to die. This Congress must immediately issue emergency funds that appropriators such as Congresswoman LEE are putting forward. We must go to the region now and say what America is going to do. And the Trump administration must stand up for children now.

HONORING MICHIGAN FARMERS HELPING THOSE AFFECTED BY WILDFIRES IN AMERICAN HEARTLAND

(Mr. MOOLENAAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, today another farm convoy left Michigan and headed south to help those suffering in America's heartland, where wildfires have burned more than 1 million acres in four States.

This convoy, and those like it in days gone by and the days to come, is the work of the amazing farming community in my district and across the State of Michigan.

They have donated trucks, trailers, and time to drive supplies to the affected areas. They have donated food and fencing to help farmers recover and rebuild. They have donated care packages with candy and cards to care for the hurting souls.

Many volunteers are staying and helping in the devastated communities. In fact, tomorrow, two young men from Ogemaw County, Brady and Keaton, are scheduled to travel with 4-H kids from Michigan's Thumb area to volunteer their skills and help build fencing in Kansas.

The overwhelmingly and generous efforts of the Michigan farming community, in response to this tragedy, represent the best of America. I pray for God's blessing on all those involved as they help with this crisis.

UNDETECTABLE FIREARMS MODERNIZATION

(Mr. KIHUEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Speaker, in 1988, Congress realized the danger posed by guns that can pass through security checkpoints undetected, and passed the Undetectable Firearms Act.

The act, signed by President Reagan, has since been reauthorized under every single President, both Democrats and Republicans alike.

When this bill originally became law, fully plastic guns were science fiction. But, today, plans for plastic guns are available online and can be produced at home with no technical expertise. Unfortunately, the Undetectable Firearms Act hasn't been updated since 1988, and glaring gaps exist.

That is why today I am introducing the Undetectable Firearms Modernization Act. This bill will make modest

changes to the original act to more fully adhere to the spirit of the law.

Mr. Speaker, we need to be working to ensure that terrorists and criminals can't walk through security checkpoints with firearms undetected.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA

(Mr. GAETZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, 93 percent of Americans support the legalization of doctor-prescribed medical marijuana—93 percent. But despite this widespread public support, marijuana remains classified as a schedule I drug, the same as LSD or heroin.

This harms low-income communities each year, it turns thousands of citizens into felons, and it punishes people who are sick and looking for medical help.

I think of Rayann, a young lady in my district with juvenile refractory epilepsy. She has seizures every day. Other treatments failed, but medical marijuana helped improve her condition. I thought of her when I worked on, and passed, Florida's Compassionate Medical Cannabis Act.

Marijuana must be moved to schedule III, which will make it easier to conduct research into its medical uses. It will allow businesses to work with banks instead of looking over their shoulders in fear of a Federal raid, and it will keep States from being at odds with Federal law.

Today I am proud to introduce legislation that will reclassify marijuana as a schedule III drug. I look forward to working with my colleagues. America is watching, and now we must act.

HONORING JOHN HERSCHEL GLENN

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the American flag on our Nation's Capitol is flying at half-mast to honor the life of American hero, Ohio Senator and Colonel John Herschel Glenn, being laid to rest today at Arlington National Cemetery.

What a human being, what a patriot, what an American hero, and what a marine whose raw courage was evidenced time and time again. A devoted, faithful husband to his beautiful wife, Annie, and father and grandfather, his life and works keep giving to us and our world.

John was a highly decorated war veteran, a Marine Corps colonel who completed 56 combat missions on the Pacific front alone during World War II, and then served in the Korean conflict. He was awarded six Distinguished Flying Crosses and 18 clusters on his Air Medal.

At the dawn of the space age, Senator Glenn became the first human being to orbit our planet Earth in 1962 on Friendship 7.